

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Website visits	426901
Page views	944765
Land Library Resources	60455
News articles	7704
Land Portal users	3400
Twitter followers	6659
Facebook likes	1885
Blog posts	1156
Sources of information	1720
Datasets	45
Users from Global South	65%

"On a per dollar basis the Land Portal is one of the most effective grants we have provided"

Peter Rabley (PlaceFund)

"The Land Portal have been an incredibly dynamic, innovative and responsive programme partner"

Chris Penrose Buckley (DfID)

"Land Portal provides an incredible overview of everything happening in the land governance sector"

Elke Matthaei (GIZ)

Message from the Chair of the Board

In November 2019, the Land Portal celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Land Portal was created a decade ago as a small UN partnership project, working to consolidate the highly dispersed information on land into one easy-to-use platform. Ten years have since passed, and in the intervening period the mission and vision of the Land Portal have matured. The Land Portal has grown from serving as a gateway to better access land data and information that is fragmented across the web, into a trusted knowledge broker that makes a difference by emphasizing data use and impact.

We strive to be a lean and efficient organization that uses financial resources effectively. Our dedicated Team – distributed around the world – works diligently to ensure the success of our organization. I would also like to recognize our excellent members of the Board, who have demonstrated an utmost commitment to providing solid practical and strategic guidance to the Land Portal Foundation. They are a diverse group of experienced land governance experts from around the world who voluntarily devote their time and effort to help the organization thrive. We also rely on the support of policy and technical advisory groups, and we are grateful for their continuous support.

We are partnering with organizations throughout the world, from local to global, to build an effective land information ecosystem that supports better informed policy and decision-making at national and international levels. We can be judged by the results of our work and our outcomes. This report demonstrates that 2019 was another excellent year for the Land Portal Foundation on all accounts.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, which has made our work possible.

Leon Verstappen, Chair

Empowering Communities Through Land Information

The interrelationship between secure land rights and economic development has gained increasing recognition, as a driver of economic development around the world. For indigenous peoples and communities, women and other vulnerable groups, secure land rights are fundamental for reducing poverty and boosting their shared prosperity. However, two-thirds of the world's population still does not have access to secure tenure.

Most countries have laws, rules and regulations that are intended to provide a framework for enabling people to access secure land rights, yet these policies are rarely implemented or followed. Providing access to land data and information to those with the most insecure land rights is essential for genuinely sustainable development.



At the Land Portal, we make sure that information is open and accessible, with a focus on levelling the playing field and removing barriers that exclude community-sourced data and local perspectives. We leverage land governance data and information to provide timely analysis, disseminate knowledge and create country-focused knowledge products that support inclusive, scalable interventions.

We are catalyzing fundamental changes. The three pillars of our work – Inform, Open and Debate – enable the Land Portal to improve land governance systems around the world. The Land Portal has become the most visited website in the land sector and is leading the way in democratizing the land information ecosystem and opening up land governance information at all levels. We are promoting and enriching the global debate on key land issues and increasing accessibility for those working to create secure land rights for people around the world.

Our work would not be possible without the support of our donors, partners, board and team who are all committed to empowering communities through land information.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Laura Meggiolaro
Team Leader

INFORM

Our response to the fragmentation and inaccessibility of land information is our multilingual platform landportal.org

The website hosts a wide range of country, issue and dataset portfolios. We aggregate and publish data, news articles, publications and much more, making otherwise dispersed content easy to discover and access.



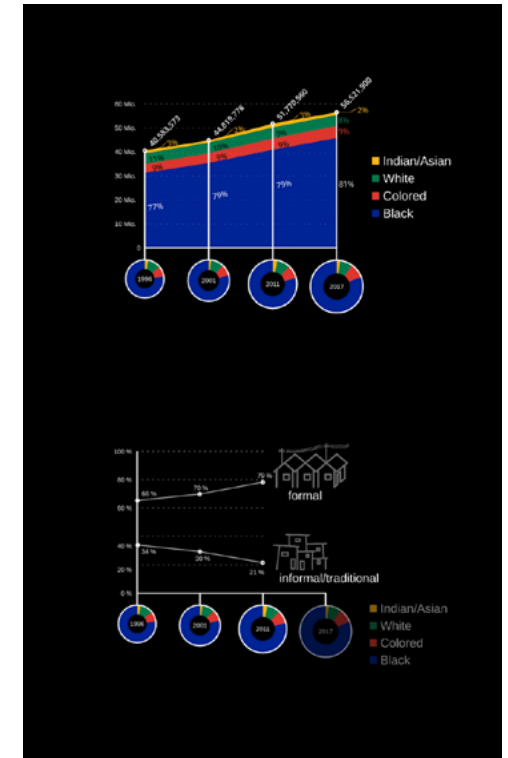
DATA STORIES

The Land Portal uses [data stories](#) to bring information to life and to present data in innovative and engaging ways using photos, quotes, maps, infographics or other means. Our *data stories* go beyond reporting the facts and data, taking the readers through a narrative and showing the context behind the data.



Rethinking Informal Settlements

While urbanization and informal settlements are particularly pronounced problems in Africa, South Africa has had a long and difficult history with spatial segregation. Apartheid-era legislation led to both insecure land rights and a lack of housing for the majority of the population. This data story takes readers through 100 years of informal settlements in South Africa, including settlement patterns and government responses during key periods (before, during and after apartheid), and the current understanding of informal settlements across the country. [Read this data story.](#)



AGGREGATING LAND INFORMATION

Getting land rights issues right and mitigating land tenure risks are increasingly important concerns for responsible businesses investing or working in the agricultural, extractive and infrastructure sectors. A wide range of tools and materials now provides businesses with guidance on how to address land rights issues in their investments.

The Responsible Land-Based Investment Navigator







Developed jointly by the Land Portal and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Responsible Land-Based Investment Navigator helps private sector stakeholders identify and access the practical tools and guides that are most relevant to their work.

The investment navigator offers a wide selection of resources on a variety of topics for operating companies, lenders and investors, buyers, service providers and legal advisors. [Explore the investment navigator.](#)



MONITORING INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Building on the [Land & Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard](#) (providing a complete overview of land-related indicators in the 2030 Agenda), we created a platform devoted to consolidating data and information on the VGGT, tracking data and information that relates its implementation, offering open access to a wide range of VGGT-related documents and organizing a wealth of content to facilitate understanding, access and reuse of this information. The platform is the result of collaboration with the world's leading land tenure experts and organizations, helping to provide greater accessibility to a wide range of VGGT-related documentation and improving knowledge-sharing at all levels. [Explore the VGGT pages.](#)

 Goal 1: No poverty 
 Goal 2: Zero hunger 
Target 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
Indicator 2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size Read more
Indicator 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status Read more
Target 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
 Goal 5: Gender equality 

"Land Portal has always been extremely easy to work with, professional and no nonsense. I am constantly amazed with how much Land Portal can do with a small team. They are the most efficient land NGO I've ever worked with"

Yuliya Panfil (New America)



OPEN

The Land Portal is building a democratic land information ecosystem in which all perspectives are equally visible and valuable, where data and information can support positive changes in land governance around the world.

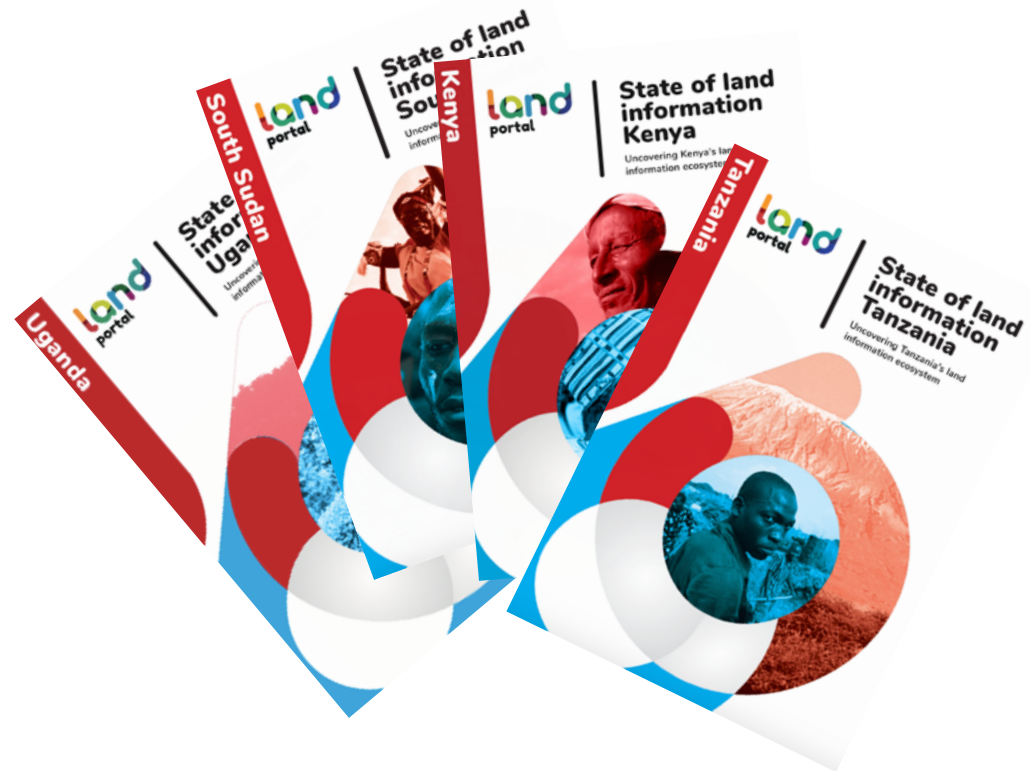
STATE OF LAND INFORMATION

Availability data and information on land is critical to effective land governance and crucial for planning and managing the use of land and land-based resources. Public institutions need land data and information for appropriate and timely decision making and land stakeholders need information to effectively monitor and influence those decisions.

The Land Portal has established a comprehensive methodology for assessing the land information in targeted countries, providing an overview of publicly available data and information on key land issues from government and other stakeholders. The results are published in State of Land Information (SOLI) reports – describing the national data landscape and identifying key gaps – which help to establish a baseline for targeted interventions to improve the information ecosystem.

Reports from Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

In 2019, the Land Portal published SOLI reports on [Kenya](#), [South Sudan](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Uganda](#). In each country, we mapped the entire land information landscape to identify trends and gaps in land data collection and the accessibility of that information online. These reports include concrete recommendations for improving data-sharing practices to help establish improved, inclusive and democratized land information ecosystems.



CONTROLLED VOCABULARY FOR LAND INFORMATION

There are countless sources of data and information on land around the world but the visibility, accessibility, consistency and completeness of those sources varies enormously. The Land Portal aggregates information on land and land tenure from as many sources as possible, providing open access to anyone with an internet connection.

LandVoc - the land governance thesaurus

LandVoc is an online thesaurus of 270 concepts related to land governance. Using a “controlled vocabulary” (currently available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese), the LandVoc has made huge quantities of diverse land information searchable and easily discoverable. The standardized terminology enables those working on land governance around the world to use terms that makes sense to them, while making the same information accessible through a wide range of synonyms and related terms. The Land Portal is blazing a trail to standardize the classification of content and resources and to improve the discoverability of and access to land-related information, from global and grassroots sources from all over the world. [Explore the land governance thesaurus.](#)



LANDVOC



the Linked Land Governance Thesaurus

DEBATE

The Land Portal promotes debate, fosters dialogue and supports innovative storytelling techniques and approaches that provide platforms for everyone, including marginalized communities, to share their experiences and articulate their perspectives.



WEBINARS

Extreme heat, flooding, storms and droughts are likely to create as many as one billion climate migrants by 2050. These impacts are already sowing instability and conflict and threaten the human rights of millions of people. Meanwhile, the demand for land is growing without respect to climate change, measures to cope with climate change are increasing the demand for land and available land is decreasing because of climate change.



Indigenous Communities, Climate Change and Sustainable Land Practices

Key experts and indigenous leaders came together for a webinar to discuss the potential of indigenous communities for addressing the climate crisis and to explore measures to protect the ability of these communities to sustainably manage their lands and resources. 350 stakeholders from around the world registered for the webinar, building a community of practice interested in uniting to tackle the important challenges that lie ahead.

"The partnership with Land Portal opened up an avenue for understanding the importance of data and Open Data platforms and engagement"

Husna Mabarak (FAO)

ONLINE DIALOGUE

The land sector is ranked among the sectors in which people are most likely to pay bribes for access to services. Corrupt government action and the looting of state property are often considered a major challenge to development.

Open Land Data in the Fight against Corruption

This online discussion focused on the role of open land data in the fight against corruption. Drawing on contributions from across six continents, the dialogue explored the opportunities and challenges for the use of open data as a tool to address land-related corruption, establishing a strong foundation for an inclusive and responsible open land data agenda as an important component of holistic anti-corruption strategies.

"The Land Portal library is an incredible resource for anybody researching land issues, anywhere in the world. The LEGEND programme has relied on it to disseminate our products"

Julian Quan (DfID)

Which factors, if tackled, can make the biggest difference?

Celina, thanks for sharing these well-referenced constraints to adoption of open data. Which ones do you think, if tackled, might make the biggest difference in changing practices?



Submitted by
Amy Coughenour ...

Dear Amy,

Dear Amy,

Thank you for the comment and question. From my personal view, all factors are equally important, however I feel the advocacy and awareness creation plays a crucial part. There is a need to reach out to both the public and government (administration bodies and policy makers). The public need to be made understood of their right to information, what the law provides for and the benefits of being able to readily access data and information with minimal cost and efforts. Government and policy makers have an essential function to formulate policies and regulations in regards to the affairs of the nation and service delivery, hence a need to be cognisant that data and information are part of the many services to be provided to the citizen. Also government need to be aware of the economic benefits of open land data that can be used to fight corruption and attract investments. Therefore, public outreach and education can be the point of departure for open data advocacy in the land sector and beyond.

Thank you,



Submitted by
Celina Kafute Awala

Can you imagine combatting corruption WITHOUT data?

Effectively, all land data can be useful in the fight against corruption, but of specific relevance would be data on land tenure and administration, land ownership (who owns what land), natural resources tenure, land use and land use planning, land transactions, land markets and land records. Let me rephrase the second element to the first guiding question: Can you imagine a corruption case in which data is not used? This is difficult to imagine.

While government is the main source of land data, as it is the one responsible for land administration and the custodian of public land records, which include titles and transactions in land rights. But it is by no means the only source of land data. Government records are supplemented and even draw on datasets produced by different actors, including NGOs, research institutions, the media, etc.

The third and final question for this week's topic (*What have been the main concerns for policy makers and funders not to prioritize openness of data and information in their programs and priorities?*), assumes that policy makers and funders have not prioritised openness of data and information in their programs and priorities, but this might be a generalization. While in the past this may have been the case, in recent years the push for open data has been mainstreamed by many actors. This in part explains why this process is taking place. It is also important to appreciate that there has to be data before one can speak of open data. Thus, we have to locate the open data revolution within the context of the wider information and communications technology revolution of the Information Age.



Submitted by
Michael Odhiambo

Can you imagine a corruption

" Can you imagine a corruption case in which data is not used? This is difficult to imagine. "

This is a really interesting point. I can't imagine a case where *documents and evidence* are not used, but I can imagine many cases where *digital datasets* are not used.

This highlights some of the different ways in which different communities talk and think about 'data'.

Whilst it is legitimate to think of any evidence as a piece of data (e.g. the paper or PDF show) [Read more](#)



Submitted by
timdavies

MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA)

The 3rd edition of the Conference on Land Policy (CLPA) in Africa focused on “Winning the fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa’s Transformation,” and was organized by the African Land Policy Centre as a joint initiative with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.

The Land Portal was proud to serve as a media partner of this conference, providing coverage before, during and after the event including interviews with stakeholders, blogposts from key voices and daily bulletins featuring highlights from the conference. As the principle media partner, the Land Portal brought substantial visibility to the conference and its focus on land corruption, while elevating the perspectives and voices of civil society.



2019 CONFERENCE ON LAND POLICY IN AFRICA
NOVEMBER 25-29 IN ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE

Media partner: **land portal**
Organized by: **African Union**, **ALP**, **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**



Land Portal @landportal · Nov 26
Laws protecting women's #landrights exist in many countries, but their need to be a shift in the patriarchal mindsets to overcome #Landcorruption says @esulle46 from @PLAASuwic at #CLPA2019

LEADING VOICES
Winning the fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa's transformation

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GROUND
#OpenData world Cafe at #CLPA2019 explores the impact of data collection, management, dissemination and evaluation on land innovation. #Africa2019

Twonge Gondwe, Women to Killimanjaro Initiative

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS
Winning the fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa's transformation

Conference on Land Policy in Africa 2019: An Interview with Kenya Land Alliance's Odenda Lumumba

21 November 2019

Why is it important that the 2019 Conference on Land Policy in Africa focus on land corruption?

It is a decade (10) years since Africa gave itself the framework and guidelines on land policy in Africa both as a declaration and challenge to fulfil its improving livelihoods of its people. The majority of whom depend on land its abundant natural resources for food security and sustainable development. At the time there was an increased large-scale land acquisitions in most places in

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